

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this Application. A detailed listing of claims that are, or were, in the Application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the Application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Status of the Claims

Claims 29-38 and 76-80 have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. The Applicants wish to make it clear that they do not agree to or acquiesce in the rejections of claims 29-38 and 76-80, but have cancelled the claims to further prosecution on the merits.

Claim 19 has been amended for clarity.

Claims 19, 20, 22-28 and 71-75 have been allowed.

Claims 19, 20, 22-28 and 71-75 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 29-38 and 76-80 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,223 titled “Method of Fabricating Adhesively Secured Frame Assembly” to Wylie (“Wylie ‘223”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,156,089 titled “Two-Stage Air Filter with Multiple-Layer Stage and Post-Filter Stage” to Stemmer et al. (“Stemmer ‘089”) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 29-38 and 76-80 have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution on the merits. The Applicants do not agree to or acquiesce in the rejections of claims 29-38 and 76-80, but have cancelled the claims to further prosecution on the merits.

The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 29-38 and 76-80 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Allowed Claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 19, 20, 22-28 and 71-80. The Applicant believes that the claims as allowed do not adequately reflect the scope of claim protection that the Applicant is entitled to based upon the teachings of the prior art and Applicant's disclosed innovations. In light of this, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to present additional claims including cancelled subject matter during subsequent prosecution of this and other related patent applications.

* * *

The Applicants believe that the present Application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully submit that each and every outstanding objection and rejection has been overcome, and the present Application is in a condition for allowance. The Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 19, 20, 22-28 and 71-75.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to the Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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